

December 19, 2005

Mr. John Kirlin, Executive Director, MLPA-I
Mr. John Ugoretz, MLPA Policy Advisor

Via email

Dear Mr. Kirlin and Mr. Ugoretz,

I am writing to ask your help in coordinating the work of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the efforts of the MLPA-I, including the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF).

Several kelp leases occur in areas highlighted by a variety of interest groups for designation as Marine Protected Areas. Some of these areas have been put forward as State Marine Reserves (SMR) or State Marine Parks (SMP) where, by definition, kelp cutting could not occur. Specifically, the kelp beds near Davenport, Point Sur, and Cambria have been suggested as State Marine Reserves in Package 2.

I am particularly concerned because we were told by staff that these areas cannot be mapped or evaluated as SMRs. I believe the Department should avoid pre-determining the ultimate designation of an area as an MPA by unnecessarily narrowing the options at this time.

As an overall guideline, the DFG should avoid renewing leases within the MLPA-I Central Coast Study Region. While the MLPA states that "the department and team, in developing the preferred siting alternative, shall take into account the existence and location of commercial kelp beds" (FG Code 2857(d)), this statement still allows an area to be designated or transitioned to a SMR.

In conclusion, I believe the Department should:

1. Delay renewing kelp bed leases in the Central Coast Study Region until after the MPA designation process for the area is complete.
2. Allow the Point Sur and Cambria area to be designated and mapped as interest groups feel appropriate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Milos Radakovich
Director, Scientific Enterprises

Cc: Mr. Phil Isenberg, Blue Ribbon Task Force Chair (via Melissa Miller-Henson)
Mr. Mike DeLapa, Central Coast Project Manager (via email)